

MARTIN U. SINGHI.

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JUNE 3, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. MEYER, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 5924.]

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 5924) to correct the naval record of Martin U. Singhi, having carefully considered the same, recommend its passage with the following amendments:

In line 5 strike out the word "honorable."

In line 7, after the word "Ottawa," add the words:

*Provided*, That said Singhi shall not, by the passage of this act, be entitled to any bounty or back pay of any kind.

The facts are as follows: Singhi enlisted in the Navy at Boston, Mass., August 30, 1861, as a second-class boy, for three years, and served on board the U. S. ships *Ohio*, *Congress*, *Key West*, and *Ottawa* until September 20, 1862, when he deserted from the last-named vessel. He immediately enlisted in the Army and served continuously until August 18, 1865. He was very young when he enlisted in the Navy, and his transfer to and from so many different vessels and the hardships he had to endure in that service not only affected him physically, but also mentally. This mental infirmity increased until, immediately after his army service closed in 1865, he became insane and has remained so ever since.

These facts are fully proven by the statements of a number of the leading citizens of his home town, filed before this committee and in the Pension Department. It has, therefore, seemed to be a clear case in which Congress should extend relief.

The amendment proposed, striking out the word "honorable," is suggested at the instance of the Navy Department, who call attention that the words "honorable discharge" have grown to have in the Navy a technical meaning, entitling a man to certain pecuniary benefits, it being inserted in original discharges issued upon the expiration of an enlistment of three years as a testimonial of fidelity and obedience. The word "discharge" alone is sufficient to properly correct the record.